

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Ashley Berke
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

Lauren Saul
Public Relations Manager
215.409.6895
lsaul@constitutioncenter.org

WHAT DO WE DO NOW? REINVENTING GOVERNMENT AFTER ELECTION 2012

Presented as the final in a series of “Practically Speaking” programs with the University of Pennsylvania’s Fels Institute of Government

Philadelphia, PA (November 6, 2012) – Health care, same-sex marriage, jobs, foreign policy – how will the outcome of the presidential election and other key issues impact the day-to-day life of U.S. citizens? Will it force Washington to change the way it conducts its business? **Mickey Edwards**, former Congressman from Oklahoma, **Feather Houstoun**, senior adviser to the Wyncote Foundation, **Ted Gaebler**, bestselling author who worked on the Clinton administration’s mandate to “reinvent government,” and **Joseph Torsella**, the U.S. Representative to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform and the National Constitution Center’s founding President and CEO, will assess the national political landscape and offer thoughts on governing after a contentious campaign season. BBC News and NPR correspondent **Sophie Reid** moderates. The program will take place on **Monday, November 19, at 6:30 p.m.**

Admission is \$10 for non-members, \$7 for members, students and teachers, and FREE for 1787 members and Fels students. Advance reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 215.409.6700 or online at www.constitutioncenter.org. This program is the final program in a series of public conversations titled “Practically Speaking,” in honor of the Fels Institute’s 75th anniversary and is generously supported by David Seltzer and Poor Richard’s Charitable Trust.

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ADD ONE/REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

Mickey Edwards is a lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and was a Republican member of Congress from Oklahoma for 16 years. He was a member of the House Republican leadership and served on the House Budget and Appropriations committees. Since leaving Congress he has taught at Harvard, Georgetown, and Princeton universities and has chaired various task forces for the Constitution Project, the Brookings Institution, and the Council on Foreign Relations. In addition, he is currently an advisor to the US Department of State and a member of the Princeton Project on National Security. He is the author of *Reclaiming Conservatism: How a Great American Political Movement Got Lost—And How It Can Find Its Way Back*.

Ted Gaebler is an internationally-known authority on transforming governments from outdated bureaucratic organizations to flexible, customer-focused organizations. He worked with U.S. Vice President Al Gore on President Clinton's mandate to "reinvent government." He has been called on to testify before Congressional and State government committees about his no-nonsense internally-driven changes in government. He co-authored two books, *Reinventing Government*, which became an international best-seller, and *Positive Outcomes: Raising the Bar on Government Reinvention*. In 1995, Gaebler was elected a Fellow in the National Academy of Public Administration in Washington, D.C., a prestigious organization that helps federal, state, and local governments respond to current and changing conditions.

Feather O'Connor Houstoun is a senior advisor to the Wyncote Foundation on public media and journalism and is serving a four-year term on the Philadelphia School Reform Commission. She is a former president of the William Penn Foundation. Houstoun has worked at every level of government, serving as Pennsylvania's secretary of public welfare during Governor Tom Ridge's administration, New Jersey state treasurer under Governor Tom Kean, chief financial officer of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, and in a number of senior positions with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Sophie Reid is a multi-media freelance journalist based in Philadelphia, working primarily for BBC News and NPR (WHYY) in Washington and Philadelphia. An accomplished producer, reporter and writer, she is currently working on production of the BBC's coverage of the 2012

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ADD TWO/REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

presidential election. She also is reporting on and producing the election for WHYY. As a lecturer at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Reid teaches on public speaking, media interviews and writing. Formerly a Senior Broadcast Journalist at the BBC, Reid was the Senior Radio Producer in Washington, producing pan-US coverage for BBC Radio and BBC World News America.

Prior to her role in Washington, she was a producer on Radio 4's The World at One and PM programs. She also has produced BBC Business News for Radio 4's flagship news program, Today, and BBC 5 Live. Before becoming a BBC journalist, Reid was an international finance lawyer in the London and Madrid offices of the global law firm Allen & Overy.

Joseph Torsella is the U.S. Representative to the United Nations for UN Management and Reform. Ambassador Torsella most recently served as the Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. Previously, Ambassador Torsella was the founding President and CEO of the National Constitution Center and later established the Center's international program, including democracy education work in Afghanistan. From 1992-93, Ambassador Torsella served as a Deputy Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, where he led many of the management reforms that closed the city's \$1.2 billion cumulative deficit. Ambassador Torsella is a former Rhodes Scholar and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Pennsylvania.

About the Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania

The Fels Institute of Government at the University of Pennsylvania is committed to advancing the quality of public leadership. Over the last 75 years, Fels has accomplished its mission by offering focused, practical educational programs that prepare students for public and nonprofit sector work; providing research and consulting services that improve the performance of organizations serving the public interest; and bridging the worlds of practice and possibility through conferences, lectures and discussions about public issues and solutions. "Practically Speaking," a series of public conversations presented in partnership with the National Constitution Center, has received generous support from David Seltzer and Poor Richard's Charitable Trust.

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ADD THREE/REINVENTING GOVERNMENT

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center is the first and only nonprofit, nonpartisan institution devoted to the most powerful vision of human freedom ever expressed: the U.S. Constitution. Located on Independence Mall in Historic Philadelphia, the birthplace of American freedom, the Center illuminates constitutional ideals and inspires active citizenship through a state-of-the-art museum experience, including hundreds of interactive exhibits, films and rare artifacts; must-see feature exhibitions; the internationally acclaimed, 360-degree theatrical production Freedom Rising; and the iconic Signers' Hall, where visitors can sign the Constitution alongside 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. As America's forum for constitutional dialogue, the Center engages diverse, distinguished leaders of government, public policy, journalism and scholarship in timely public discussions and debates. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, the national hub for constitutional education, which offers cutting-edge civic learning resources both onsite and online. Freedom is calling. Answer it at the National Constitution Center. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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